Vol VIII. Numb. 1

THE OBSERVATOR.

A Letter from Suſſex, *with an Account of the Inſolence of Papiſts and* Jacobites *there; and of the continuing of the Woollen-Trade with* France *on that Coaſt. On Letters complaining of the* Rehearſer's *Inſolence, and of the Encouragement given to* Jacobites *by his Paper. The Opinion of the ancient Church of* England, *as to the Order of Biſhops.*

From Saturday, January 29. to Wednesday, February 2. 1709.

Country-m. HEre's a Letter to you, Maſter, from a Gentleman in *Suſſex*, which thanks you for your Thoughts on the Lord *Haverſham*'s Speech, and gives you an Account, that laſt Year, about the Time of the Invaſion, a Parcel of Papiſts and *Jacobites* met at a certain Park in the *Eaſt* Part of *Surrey*, ſome of them in Diſguiſe, where they ſtay'd in Expectation of News of the Pretender's Landing; but when they heard he did not, they return'd Home. He adds, that in ſeveral Parts of that Country, when the Addreſs of the Houſe of Lords, about *Gregg*, and the other traiterous Correſpondents with *France*, came out, they were tore to Pieces in Publick Houſes, and *Rehearſers* ſcatter'd about in their Stead, that in a certain Juſtice of Peace's Houſe, a villanous Print was fix'd up, reflecting on her Majeſty and the Parliament; and yet that Man is ſince ſent for by a certain Lord, to be prefer'd to ſome conſiderable Poſt. The Letter concludes with an Account, that on the Coaſt of *Suſſex* and *Kent*, the Woollen-Trade is ſtill carry'd on with *France*, for Wine and Brandy in Exchange, almoſt without Oppoſition.

Obſ. Such Complaints have been frequently made, *Roger*; but we have had few Inſtances of exemplary Puniſhment upon any ſuch Criminals, which makes others impudent. I have often ſaid, that it look'd very ſtrange, that notwithſtanding the Addreſs of the Lords laſt Year, when the Invaſion was firſt talk'd of, wherein their Lordſhips expreſs'd their Apprehenſions of Encouragement given to that Invaſion from hence, by Men of arbitrary Principles and reſtleſs Paſſions; yet not one *Engliſh*-man was taken up for it, tho' it be too well known, that we have abundance of ſuch People among us, who make no Secret of thoſe arbitrary Principles and reſtleſs Paſſions, which the Lords juſtly gave as the Characteriſtick of the Pretender's Friends. But if ſuch Men as that mention'd in the Letter, be Juſtices of Peace in any Corner, we can't expect they ſhould be zealous in taking up Offenders; therefore it would ſeem to be neceſſary, that a thorough Enquiry ſhou'd be made in what Hands the Commiſſions of Peace and Lieutenancy are lodg'd in *England*, as well as in *Scotland*.

Country-m. I hope, Maſter, our Repreſentatives will enquire into thoſe Things, and take Care to have them redreſs'd; for the Nation can never be ſafe, except the Commiſſions of the Lieutenancy and Peace be in the Hands of ſuch as are firm to her Majeſty's Title, and the Proteſtant Succeſſion.

Obſ. Our Noble Patriots, the Lords, have made frequent Addreſſes of that Tendency, *Roger*, and have always had gracious Returns from her Majeſty; but as 'tis impoſſible for any Prince of ſuch large Dominions, to ſee every Thing done themſelves they are under a Neceſſity to truſt others with the Adminiſtration; and if any of thoſe ſo intruſted be either negligent or diſhoneſt, the beſt and moſt careful Prince of the World may be impos'd upon, and ill-ſerv'd. My Lord *Haverſham* obſerv'd very juſtly in his Speech, that the Papiſts, *Jacobites*, and Non-jurors are a Party of Men divided from the reſt of the Nation; they want that vital Spirit of Love and Loyalty, that animates every good Subject; yet by whoſe Neglect or Encouragement it happens, God knows. You ſee we are peſter'd with Complaints every Day, that there's ſcarce an Office in *England*, where there are not *Jacobites*, or worſe Men employ'd, for thoſe who take the Oaths to the Queen, and abjure the Pretender, and yet are for him in their Hearts, promote his Intereſt all they can, and diſcourage and vex honeſt Men, who are employ'd with them, or under them, are ten times worſe than thoſe who refuſe the Oaths, and openly own what they are. No Body can doubt this, if they conſider the Practice of that Juſtice of Peace above-mention'd, and thoſe in the *North* of *Scotland*, we ſpoke of before; who, if ſome Informations be true, when they took the Oaths, bid the Devil go down with them.

Country-m. I think they might have ſav'd themſelves the Trouble of that Prayer, or rather Curſe, Maſter; for I doubt not he enter'd them with the Oath, as he did *Judas* with the Sop. But pray, Maſter, what do you ſay to the long Letter I brought you juſt now, from a Gentleman who ſent you one of I don't know how many Pages, ſome Time ago, and complains you took no Notice of it? You ſee what rueful Complaints he makes of ill Mens being employ'd in many Places of Power and Truſt, and of a great many other Abuſes, which he thinks deſerves to be enquir'd into, and redreſs'd.

Obſ. I thank the Gentleman for his good Will, *Roger*, and ſhall take Notice of ſuch Things in his Letters, as are proper for me, in due Time; but muſt deſire him to allow me the Liberty he takes to himſelf, to be Judge of my own Buſineſs. He may have Acceſs to Parliament-men, as well as I, and lodge his Complaints with them himſelf, if he pleaſes. How often have I taken Notice of a Correſpondence carry'd on with *France*, by the ſcurvy Woollers; yet you ſee 'tis ſtill done? Nor are we to wonder at it; our noble Patriots, the Lords, laid open a Myſtery of Iniquity carry'd on by *Gregg*, and others, who correſponded with *France*, but we have not yet heard, as my Lord *Haverſham* juſtly obſerv'd, that the *French* King has loſt any one of his many Friends among us ſince that Time, but *Gregg*. I am apt to think, had his Subjects met together to countenance an Invaſion upon him, that he is better ſerv'd by his Intendants, and others in Places of Power and Truſt under him, than not to have been inform'd of it, and have made them Examples. Thoſe he employs in the chief Part of the Adminiſtration, are more careful, than to ſuffer Civil or Military Poſts to be put into the Hands of his Enemies; and that's the Reaſon why we never hear of his being betray'd by any that he truſts.

Country-m. You ſee, Maſter, that ſeveral of the Letters ſent you, complain of the *Rehearſer*'s Inſolence; how much it is lugg'd by *Jacobites*, and other Enemies to the Government, who are encourag'd by it; tear the Addreſſes of the Lords in Publick Houſes, and ſpread *Rehearſals* in their Stead.

Obſ. You and I can do no more than we have done, *Roger*, to warn thoſe concern'd, to prevent ſuch Things, and of the Miſchief done by that Paper, but hitherto without Effect. Nor can we expect

pest it should be otherwise, while he is encourag'd by those that eat the Queen's Bread, who bind up Sets of 'em, and disperse them, and carry it on by Subscription. All the World may see whose Interest he serves by it, and how zealous the *Jacobites* and Papists are to encourage it. 'Tis printed by a Papist, who no Doubt thinks it meritorious. His Tools, who assist him, are known to be nonjurant Clergy-men, and notorious *Jacobites*. He is attended and caress'd at Taverns by Clubs of the Faction. They furnish him Money to pay his Debts, when arrested, to prevent his falling into the Hands of the Law. He can pull out Handfuls of Broad-pieces to bribe Messengers to let him escape, when taken, as I am inform'd by a very good Hand; and you see with what Impudence he flies every Day in the Face of the Queen and Parliament, yet he is not call'd to an Account for it. He belies the Church of *England*, and represents our Clergy, who have sworn to the Government, as a Parcel of Hypocrites. He says, that if Men of arbitrary Principles be purg'd out of the Church and State, the Church would be empty'd of her Clergy; yet he boasts of their Civility towards him.

Country-m. It fills me and my honest Country Neighbours with Amazement, Master, and makes us apprehensive of an Invasion indeed; but since those whose Province it is, can't reach him, it seems, to chastise him for his Insolence and Treason, pray let me have your Opinion, as to his unchurching all those Protestant Churches who want Bishops in his Sense.

Obj. He not only does so, *Roger*, but he and his Friends, Mr. *Dodwell* and others, make the Church of *England*, as by Law establish'd, Schismaticks, and deny the Possibility of Salvation in the Communion of those who came in the Place of such of the factious and nonjurant Bishops, as were depos'd by Law. I have told you again and again, that he lies in the Face of the 55th Canon of the Church of *England*, which owns those Protestant Churches that want Bishops, to be true Churches, and particularly the Church of *Scotland*, which is settl'd by the same Authority that she is. I confess, that Matters of this Nature are not proper to be argu'd in such Papers; but since the Honour of the Queen and Parliament are concern'd in't, and that they are libell'd by the *Rehearser*, as having establish'd a Rebellion against God like that of *Korah*, because they have ratify'd the Church of *Scotland*, and given a Toleration to Dissenters here, I shall, for your Satisfaction, and the Vindication of our Government, treat upon this Subject now and then, that the World may see the Malice of the *Rehearser* and his Faction, has got the Ascendant of their Learning and Honesty. But you must take this Caution along with you, that Episcopacy, as settl'd by Law in *England*, is not at all concern'd in this Debate, my Design being only to obviate the *Rehearser*'s Slanders upon those Churches that want it, and to shew the Moderation of the Church and State of *England* upon this Head.

The first Instance, is, from *Ælfrics* Canons, to Bishop *Wulfinus*, bound up with *Lambard*'s *Saxon* Laws, where, having reckon'd up the different Orders of Church-men, he makes the Bishop and Presbyter one and the same Order, *Ambo siquidem unum tenent eundemq; Ordinem quamvis dignior sit illa pars Episcopi*; *i. e.* They are both of one and the same Order, tho' the Bishop's Part be the more worthy, or carries the greater Dignity: By which 'tis plain, *Roger*, that in those Days the Church of *England* did not hold Bishops and Presbyters to be of a different Order, tho' then, as appears by the same Section, Bishops appointed to ordain, and to visit, and to take Care that the Laws of God should be observ'd: And in the following Section, he says, There is no other Order appointed in the Church, but the seven above-mention'd, *viz.* The Doorkeeper, the Lector or Reader, who also preach'd, the Exorcist, who cast out unclean Spirits, the Acolyth, who lighted the Wax Candles at the Sacrament, the Sub-deacon, who serv'd the Deacon at the Altar, and reach'd him the Vessels, the Deacon, who assisted the Priest, laid the Offerings on the Altar, read the Gospel, baptiz'd, and gave the Supper to the People, and the Presbyter, whom he makes of the same Order with the Bishop.

Country-m. That's plain enough, Master. Pray go on.

Obj. The second Instance, is, *Roger*, the Statute of Provisors of Benifices in 25 *Ed.* 3. wherein 'tis expresly said, That the Church of *England* was founded in the Estate of Prelacy by his Progenitors, and the Earls, Barons, and other Nobles of the Realm, and their Ancestors: By which 'tis plain, that the Superiority of Bishops over Presbyters in this Nation, was founded by the Act of King and Parliament.

The third Instance, is, that of *Wiccliff* and his Followers, in whose Time the Dawning of the Reformation began to appear; for 'tis certain they were of Opinion, that Bishops and Presbyters were of one and the same Order.

The fourth Instance, is, that of *Henry* the VIII. who, in a Book entitl'd, *A necessary Doctrine and Erudition for any Christen Man*, publish'd by his Authority, and imbrac'd by the Church of *England* at that Time as her Doctrine, says expresly under the Head of the Sacrament of Orders, that the Scripture maketh expres mention only of Priests and Deacons, and the Office of Bishop and Priest is describ'd to be one and the same, *viz.* To teach the Word of God, and administer the Sacraments; and what the Opinion of our Reformers was in that Matter, we shall hear in our next, *Roger*.

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